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Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CGEN, SOPN, UR, US

SUBJECT: LIBEL SUIT AGAINST WHITNEY/PIPER

1. KONSTANTIN SIMIS, RECENT SOVIET EMIGRE AND FORMER SOVIET LAWYER (AND HUSBAND OF DINA KAMINSKAYA, A DEFENSE LAWYER FOR PROMINENT DISSIDENTS), PROVIDED DEPT WITH FOLLOWING COMMENT RE WHITNEY/PIPER LIBEL SUIT:

2. PERSONALITY, BACKGROUND AND HANDLING OF CASE BY PRESIDING JUDGE LEV ALMAZOV IS RELEVANT TO UNDERSTANDING MOTIVATION OF SOVIET AUTHORITIES. SIMIS SAID BOTH HE AND HIS WIFE KNEW ALMAZOV WELL WHEN THEY WERE PRACTICING ATTORNEYS IN MOSCOW. ALMAZOV COMES FROM "GOOD" FAMILY (HIS FATHER WAS A PHYSICIAN) AND IS MAN OF EDUCATION AND
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BREEDING. ALTHOUGH HIS YEARS AS JUDGE OF PEOPLES COURT HAD MADE HIM RESPONSIVE TO EXTRA-JUDICIAL PRESSURE, HE HAD REPUTATION FOR CORRECT, DIGNIFIED BEHAVIOR AND FOR PERFORMING JUDICIAL DUTIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH SOVIET LAW AND JUDICIAL PROCEDURE.

3. JUDGING BY PRESS REPORTS, SIMIS REGARDS ALMAZOV'S

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BEHAVIOR IN WHITNEY/PIPER CASE AS RUDE AND ARROGANT, INVOLVING VIOLATION OF DEFENDANTS' RIGHTS AND PROPER COURT PROCEDURE. SUCH BEHAVIOR COMPLETELY OUT OF CHARACTER FOR ALMAZOV AND INDICATES THAT HE IS RESPONDING TO PRECISE INSTRUCTIONS HAVING PURPOSE TO HUMILIATE US SIDE. SIMIS ADDED THAT SAME INTENTION WAS EVIDENT IN USE OF UNNECESSARY FORCE AND LACK OF CONSIDERATION SHOWN DURING ARREST OF I-H REP CRAWFORD. VANCE

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